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REMARKS BY

DAN MOZENA

U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh

Relief International Anti-Trafficking Youth Festival

Ashek Mahmud College

Jamalpur District

July 18, 2012

Honorable Deputy Commissioner of Jamalpur Md. Siraj Uddin Ahmed

Honorable Mayor of Jamalpur Advocate Shah Wares Ali Mamun

Be prepared ...

Two simple words ...

... words that serve as the motto for Boy Scouts around the world, ...

... but words that can make all of the difference here in Jamalpur ...

... the difference between living a normal life of growing up and raising a family ...

... or living a life of modern slavery, trafficked into a world of exploitation and abuse.

I know that it is hard to believe,

but here, right here in Jamalpur, there are people ... often people whom you know – friends, relatives, neighbors – who seek to make money by trafficking you ... boys, girls, women, men ... into situations where you are forced into prostitution or forced labor.

These people who seek to profit by selling you into a world of abuse and exploitation are monsters, horrid criminals.

But you, the good people of Jamalpur, are most fortunate.

The leaders of your community have decided to fight back, to defend the community from those who seek to exploit you.

I am proud that America, in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, including your local leaders, and with Relief International and Dhaka Ahsania Mission, is helping Jamalpur protect itself against those who seek to become rich by trafficking their fellow human beings ... you.

We are helping Jamalpur fight these traffickers ...

- 27 anti-trafficking community committees are at work in 27 unions
- These committees have conducted trafficking awareness sessions with nearly 30,000 members of your communities
- The committees have worked hard to help identify those groups of people most vulnerable to trafficking
- And they are working especially hard with young people to make them aware of the dangers of being seduced into a situation of abuse and exploitation

This festival today is an important part of the effort to make people more aware of the risks of being trafficked.

I hope you will take time to review the poster exhibition of youth mini-service projects to learn more about what is happening to ensure that all members of the community are safe from those evil-doers who seek to profit by trafficking members of this very community into bondage, into modern slavery.

I am confident that when all of us ... America, the Bangladesh Government, local leaders, Relief International, Dhaka Ahsania Mission ...

... all of us come together, when all of us work together ...

... we can overcome the scourge of trafficking ...

... and keep all the people of Jamalpur safe.

America is proud to be the partner of Bangladesh is battling the scourge of human trafficking.

Thank you.

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GR/ 2012